

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ECE - SENIOR ADVISERS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

AD HOC MEETING ON TECHNOLOGICAL FORECASTING,MARCH 20-21

1. DELEGATES TO SUBJECT MEETING AGREED TO SUPPORT ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS, SUBJECT TO CONCURRENCE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AUTHORITIES, THE TOPIC OF SOLAR ENERGY AS THE SUBJECT FOR A COOPERATIVE TECHNOLOGICAL FORECASTING EXERCISE. THE SECRETARIAT PRESENTED A NOTE TO THE MEETING WHICH PROPOSED THREE AREAS OF INTEREST: SOLAR ENERGY, DEVELOPMENTS IN AUTOMOBILE DESIGN AND ENGINE INNOVATION, AND SUBSTITUTION OF RENEWABLE FOR NON-RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES. SOME OF THE DELEGATES, IN PARTICULAR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ITALY AND FRG, FELT THAT THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH. THE DELEGATE FROM HUNGARY MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR THE SUBSTITUTION TOPIC BUT ELICITED NO SUPPORT. THUS BY A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION SOLAR ENERGY -- WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS OF THE DIRECT RADIATION UTILIZATION, RATHER THAN WIND AND TIDES WAS ACCEPTED AT THE END.

2. AT THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE ECE SENIOR ADVISERS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T) IN JULY 1977, THE ADVISERS UNCLASSIFIED

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CHARGED THE SECRETARIAT WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF A SEMINAR ON TECHNOLOGICAL FORECASTING. THIS SEMINAR HAS NOW GONE THROUGH A METAMORPHOSIS AND WILL BE PART SEMINAR AND PART WORKSHOP TO HELP SHARPEN THE RESEARCH AGENDA FOR THE SOLAR ENERGY COOPERATIVE TECHNOLOGICAL FORECASTING EXERCISE. A FAIRLY SPECIFIC TIME TABLE WAS AGREED UPON. THE ECE MEMBER GOVERNMENT WILL BE ASKED BY THE SECRETARIAT

TO INDICATE BY JULY THEIR INTEREST IN AND RESOURCES THEY CAN COMMIT TO SEMINAR; FURTHER DETAILED COMMITMENTS WILL BE SOLICITED BY SEPT. 15 WITH THE IDEA OF PRESENTING A FAIRLY COMPLETE PLAN TO THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE SENIOR ADVISERS ON S&T IN OCTOBER. THE SEMINAR WILL TAKE PLACE IN EARLY 1979 AND SPAIN IS CONSIDERING HOSTING IT.

3. COMMENT: THE USSR AND A NUMBER OF OTHER EASTERN COUNTRIES WERE NOT PRESENT AT THE MEETING. THE GDR REP DID NOT SPEAK, BUT THE POLISH REP, WHO WAS ELECTED VICE-CHAIRMAN, WAS THE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC DELEGATE IN SUPPORTING THE EXERCISE. FRG DELEGATE SAID PRIVATELY HIS COUNTRY MIGHT NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE EXERCISE IF THERE WAS NOT MORE PARTICIPATION FROM EAST AS THERE EXISTED MORE SUITABLE FORUMS FOR A PURELY WESTERN EXERCISE.

4. CANADA, ITALY, FRG AND SWITZERLAND WERE MOST ARTICULATE DELEGATES AND WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN DIRECTING OUTCOME OF MEETING. USDEL WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF MEETING. USDEL WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED POSITION PAPER TO FACILITATE CLEARER ARTICULATION OF US POSITION AND ENABLE MISSION OFFICER TO PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORTING US REP WHILE HE WAS IN CHAIR. END COMMENT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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